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Attachment to Z-15895/82

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NPIC/IEG (9/82)

24 SEPTEMBER 1982

189B

LENINGRAD SHIPYARD BALTIC ORDZHONIKID, USSR

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1. (S/WN) SIGNIFICANCE: EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THE 189B MAY BE A NEW GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER.
2. (S/WN) REMARKS: THE 189B, A LARGE SHIP UNDER CONSTRUCTION IS AT ONE OF THE TWO BUILDINGWAYS (REPORTING POSITION - 21) AT LENINGRAD SHIPYARD BALTIC ORDZHONIKID 189. ALTHOUGH CURRENTLY THERE IS NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO CONFIRM THIS IDENTIFICATION, IT DOES APPEAR TO BE THE MOST LIKELY OPTION. THE 189B HAS COMBATANT-TYPE FRAMING, A HIGH SPEED HULL, AND A PROBABLE VARIABLE DEPTH SONAR (VDS) COMPARTMENT INDICATIVE OF A COMBATANT. THE MOST LIKELY COMBATANT-TYPE WOULD BE A NEW GENERATION AIRCRAFT CARRIER, SINCE THE UNIT DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE SPACES FOR MAJOR OFFENSIVE WEAPONS SYSTEMS. THE 189B DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE FOUR POSITIONS ON THE STERN PROBABLY ASSOCIATED WITH AIR DEFENSE MACHINE GUNS (ADMG). THE UNIT WILL HAVE A COMPLETED LENGTH OF 285 TO 300 METERS, WHICH IS LONGER THAN ANY KNOWN SOVIET COMBATANT. IN THE PAST, AVIATION-ASSOCIATED SHIPS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED AT NIKOLAYEV SHIPYARD NOSENKO 444 [REDACTED], IN THE BLACK SEA. THE SOVIETS HAVE IMPLIED, HOWEVER, THAT THE CARRIER WILL BE COMPLETED IN THE LATE 1980'S AND THAT IT WILL BE NUCLEAR POWERED. THE LENINGRAD SHIPYARD CURRENTLY IS THE ONLY SHIPYARD IN THE SOVIET UNION INVOLVED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF NUCLEAR-POWERED SURFACE SHIPS. BASED ON CARRIER RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS IN PROGRESS AT SAKI AIRFIELD [REDACTED] [REDACTED] A NEW GENERATION SOVIET AIRCRAFT CARRIER WOULD PROBABLY HAVE AN ANGLED FLIGHT DECK WITH STEAM CATAPULTS. IF THE 189B IS AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER, THE FLIGHT DECK COULD BE CONSTRUCTED WHILE THE UNIT IS ON THE BUILDINGWAY OR COULD BE CONSTRUCTED AT THE FITTING-OUT QUAY AFTER THE UNIT IS LAUNCHED.

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(S/WN) OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED INCLUDED SUCH NON-COMBATANTS AS A SPACE EVENTS SHIP (SESS), A NAVAL AUXILIARY (AG), AND A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH VESSEL (AGOR). [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 59-55-18N 033-15-39E.

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